

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00930 131542Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /066 W  
-----131928Z 055831 /44

R 131432Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2444  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0930

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UR, US  
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR

REF: A) WARSAW 2308 B) BELGRADE 2042

1. WHILE THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS WAS WAITING FOR ARRIVAL OF NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AT AIRPORT APRIL 12, SOVIET AMBASSADOR MATSKEVICH AND HIS INTERPRETER SOUGHT ME OUT. THE FIRST TOPIC WAS THE EXPECTED MID-APRIL VISIT HERE OF CPSU POLITBURO MEMBER AND DEFENSE MINISTER USTINOV. MATSKEVICH, WHO CLAIMS A LONG AND CLOSE ACQUAINTANCE WITH USTINOV, SAID THE LATTER'S VISIT WAS FOR "ORIENTATION," SINCE HE HAD NEVER VISITED CZECHOSLOVAKIA AS DEFENSE MINISTER. MATSKEVICH WAS UNSURE WHETHER HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING USTINOV ON HIS TRAVELS AROUND THIS COUNTRY.

2. MATSKEVICH THEN BROUGHT UP THE SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT  
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00930 131542Z

TO MOSCOW AND SPOKE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN THE SALT TALKS. HE SAID: "WE CANNOT DESTROY WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED." THINKING THAT HE MIGHT BE BRINGING UP THE ALLEGATIONS THAT WE ARE RENEGING ON PRIVATE AGREEMENTS REACHED AT VLADIVOSTOK, I POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD ALREADY CHECKED WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND KISSINGER TO BE CERTAIN WHAT HAD ACTUALLY BEEN AGREED UPON AT VLADIVOSTOK. MATSKEVICH BACKPEDALED,

SAYING HE HAD MEANT THAT WE MUST ACCEPT THAT PATIENCE IS NECESSARY TO MAKE PROGRESS IN SALT AND WE CANNOT EXPECT TOO MUCH AT ONCE. IN AN INTERESTING FORMULATION HE SAID WE MUST WORK HARD FOR PROGRESS, "EVEN AT THE COST OF OUR HEALTH, IF NECESSARY." I SOUGHT TO PIN MATSKEVICH DOWN ON WHO MIGHT HAVE RUINED HIS HEALTH WORKING ON SALT, WITHOUT SUCCESS. COMMENT: MATSKEVICH'S PITCH ON NEED TO KEEP WORKING TOGETHER FOR CONTINUED GRADUAL PROGRESS ON SALT COINCIDES WITH LINE BEING TAKEN BY OTHER SOVIET AMBASSADORS (REFTELS). END COMMENT.

3. BIO NOTE: MATSKEVICH WAS IN THE USSR FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 28. HE SAYS HE SPENT MOST OF THAT TIME IN HOSPITAL, BUT DID NOT IDENTIFY HIS MEDICAL PROBLEM.  
BYRNE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), MEETING REPORTS  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 WARSAW 2308, 77 BELGRADE 2042  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2820581  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PARM, UR, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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